

chambers being broken in response to the application of pressure on the flexible cover to tear the flexible cover layer inward.

17. (Amended) Storage device of claim 16 wherein the chambers are formed by receiving depressions in the flexible base layer, said receiving depressions being convex with respect to the flexible cover layer and sealed by the flexible cover layer.

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July 4 18. (Twice Amended) Storage device for medical swabs consisting of an envelope, said envelope having a flexible base film and a flexible covering film wherein said envelope has adjacent chambers wherein said chambers comprise two flexible layers which are integrally bonded with each other in the areas between the chambers, the chambers opening in response to the exertion of pressure on the covering film.

REMARKS

In the Advisory Action dated February 1, 2001, the Examiner submitted that the previous amendments to claims 16 and 18 raised new issues that would require further consideration and search. Accordingly, Claims 16 and 18 have been amended to replace the term "sheet" to "layer", as the term "layer" was used in the claims as originally filed and there was no indication given by the Examiner that such term is indefinite, specifically noting the Office Action dated September 28, 1999 of the parent application. Claim 17 has been amended to comply with claims 16 and 18. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that the term "layer" is used throughout the specification, specifically page 2, lines 8-10; page 2, lines 23-32; and page 3, lines 20-31 and therefore does not add new matter to the application.

Applicant has previously submitted arguments pertaining to the Final Office Action of November 22, 2000. Applicant respectfully submits supplementary arguments to the Response to Office Action filed January 26, 2001.